



# **DHAMMIKARAMA**

## **BURMESE BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

(Founded in 1803)

Lorong Burma, 10250 Batu Pinang  
Tel: 04-22777

### **1 ARAHANT UPAGUTTA**

The Arahant Upagutta shrine, originally a small plank building was constructed in 1840 on the present site.

The new shrine was constructed in 1976 and the Arahant Upagutta Image was consecrated on 18th December, 1978.

Arahant Upagutta is stated to possess the power to overcome all obstacles, problems, fulfilling of wishes (examinations, sickness, etc.) and also the exorcising of evil.

### **2 PANCHARUPA MONUMENT**

This monument which shows two mythological animals with a globe was constructed on 1st. September, 1987.

### **3 SIMA HALL**

This is the place where all canonical Buddhist Ceremonies are conducted.

### **4 ARAHANT SIVALI**

To the right of the Arahant Upagutta shrine, are three beautiful images; namely Arahant Sivali, Yakkharaja (Demon King) and Jhanika Yogi (meditator with supernatural power).

The Arahant Sivali is noted to be very fortunate in acquiring all the basic necessities wherever he is. He is the patron saint for good luck, happiness and prosperity.

### **5 ARAHANT KHEMA**

To the left side of the shrine, are three more images, consisting of Arahant Khema (first chief female disciple of Buddha). She is especially noted for her great beauty and wisdom. The other two images are both Devis (heavenly maidens).

### **6 THE PAGODA**

The original pagoda was enshrined inside the present pagoda which was constructed together with the Sima Hall (Chapter House) in 1838.



## THE MAIN SHRINE HALL

The former shrine hall built in 1842 was renovated and extended. A new Buddha Image was installed by Burmese and local craftsmen in 1988.

The Opening Ceremony of the Main Shrine Hall and the consecration of the Buddha Image was held on 12th March, 1988.

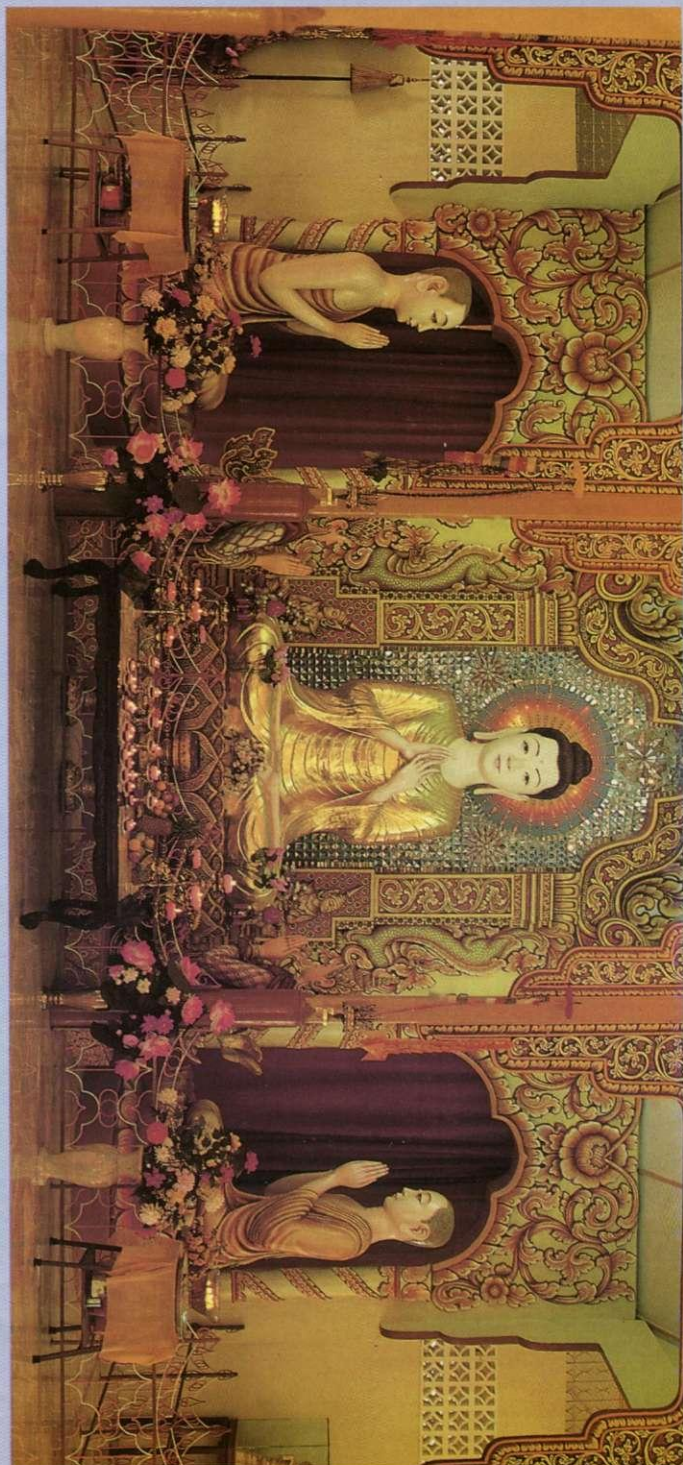
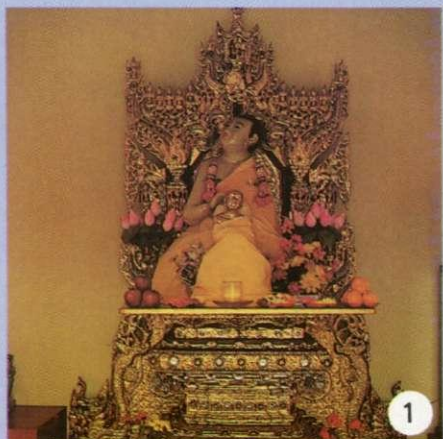
The central Buddha Image in the main shrine represents Buddha in the Dharma-cakra-mudra (i.e. expounding the turning of the Wheel of Law) while delivering his first sermon at the deer park at Sarnath in the year 598 B.C.

To the right of the Buddha is Arahant Sariputra, who possess great intelligence and profound knowledge of the Dhamma. He is the first male chief disciple of the Buddha.

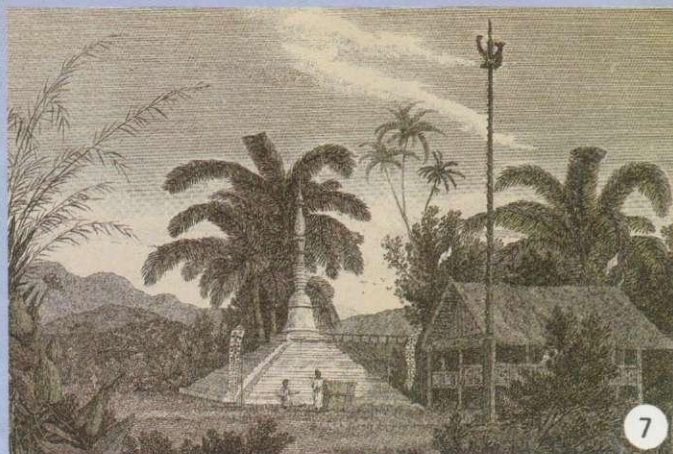
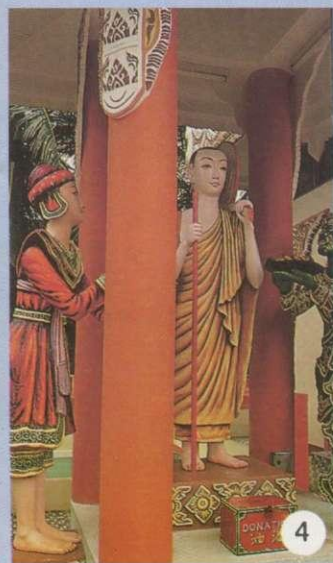
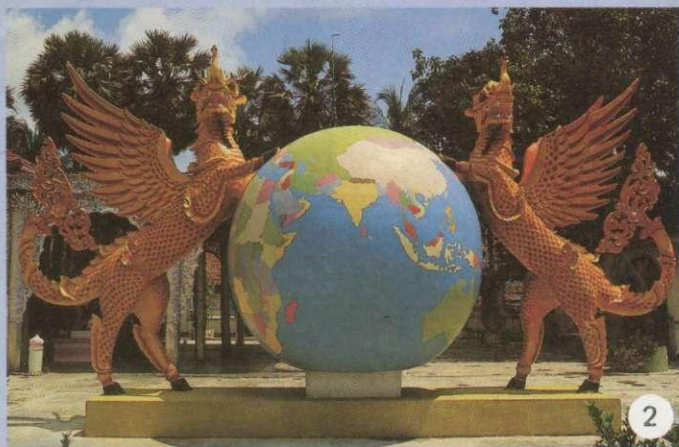
To the left is Arahant Mogallana, who possess the greatest Supernatural powers, such as manifestating himself and others at will into any forms which are visible or invisible. He is the second male chief disciple of the Buddha.

Near to the Arahant Sariputra is Ghatikara-Brahma (a higher celestial being) who offered the eight requisites to the Bodhisatta and brought the Bodhisatta's dress to be enshrined in a stupa in Akanittha heaven, also known as Dussa Ceti.

Near to the Arahant Mogallana is Sakka-Devaraja (King of Gods) who brought the Bodhisatta's hair to be enshrined in a stupa in Tavatimsa heaven known as Culamani Ceti.







*Burmese Buddhist Temple at Prince of Wales Island (Penang) as painted by Edward H. Locker in 1805.  
(By courtesy of Penang Museum)*



*Burmese Buddhist Temple at Burma Lane, Penang;  
as it is from 1984.*





## HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE

The Dhammikarama Burmese Buddhist Temple was founded on 1st. August, 1803.

The temple land was purchased by Nonia Betong from George Layton, for 390 Spanish Dollars.

The land was held in Trust by Nonia Betong, jointly with Nonia Meerut, Nonia Koloh and Nonia Bulan, for a Burmese Temple, or a place of public worship, called Nandy Moloh.

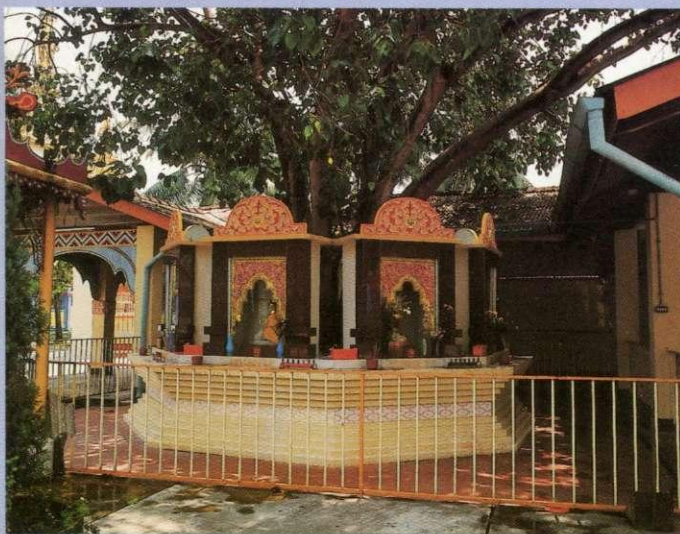
**N.B.** All the first four trustees were ladies.

The land situated in the District of Tulloh Aier Rajah, under Grant 1162, Lot 372; Section 4, Georgetown; dated the First Day of August, 1803 granted by Sir George Leith Baronet, Lt. Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

## THE BODHI TREE

The Bodhi tree, presented by Mr. Tan Aun Phaik was planted in a ceremony on 2nd September, 1973.

The marble Buddha shrines surrounding the Bodhi tree, facing the eight compass directions were consecrated on 22nd May, 1988.



## FESTIVALS

The main annual festivals celebrated in this temple are:—

1. The Water Festival  
13th April
2. "Cheng Beng" Dana  
(Memorial Day)
3. WESAK DAY  
(Full moon day of May)
4. Vassa Vasana  
(observing of rains retreat)
5. Remembrance Day for the departed — Dana
6. "Soon Dorgy" Festival  
(Last day of the Buddhist Lent)
7. Kathina Celebrations  
(offering of Requisites)

## ACTIVITIES

- a. Meditation class  
(every Wednesday night)
- b. Buddhist studies
- c. Chanting of Dhamma  
(every Sunday morning and Saturday night)
- d. Sunday School Activities  
(every Sunday morning)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The school is important to the Buddhist community because it is a place where proper Buddhist teachings can be obtained and Buddhist activities can be carried out correctly.

The Dhammikarama Sunday School was founded on 2nd September, 1973. The school building was constructed in 1974.